

Final Project for Diversity in Tech History, Fall 2019

For the final project your goal is to try to write a history, to the best of your ability, on a topic that falls under the purview of this course. First, you will choose a historical topic of interest to you from the list below and do research on that topic in the online database of *Tech News*, IIT's student newspaper. Second, you will do research on that topic in the online archives of the *Times* of London, *Ebony*, and other historical publications. Third, you will compare, contrast, and evaluate what you've found to produce a historical and historiographical essay of 7-10 pages. There are three stages, and three **due dates** involved in this project. Completion of all three is necessary in order to receive full credit. **Due dates are called out in red text.**

1. Choose a topic from the list below and research it in *IIT Tech News* (online through Galvin Library). Do not use Google.

Topics: the **history of immigrants to the US** in, or adjacent to, tech spaces; the **history of women** (white women and women of color) in, or adjacent to, tech spaces; the **history of Native Americans** in, or adjacent to, tech spaces; the **history of Black people** in, or adjacent to, tech spaces; the **history of disabled people** in, or adjacent to, tech spaces; the **history of LGBTQIA people** in, or adjacent to, tech spaces.

Write up your findings in 1-2 pages and turn it in (printed out) in class on **Wednesday, October 30.**

2. Use the online archives of the *Times* of London, plus other relevant sources from the list of databases at <https://library.iit.edu/find/articles/by-subject/history>, and/or the archives of *Ebony* at <https://www.nypl.org/collections/articles-databases/ebony-magazine> to learn more about your topic. Use at least 3 historical newspaper or magazine databases. Be attentive to what's being written about as well as what is not making it into the news or what seems to be ignored. Do not use Google (other than the Ebony archive). Write up a 1-2 page essay on your findings from this stage of your research and turn it in (printed out) in class on **Monday, November 11.**

3. Using the research you've done above, the class readings, and whatever book(s) and/or articles I've suggested to you in my comments on your essays from step 2, write an essay of 7-10 pages that talks about what you've found, and about the process of trying to write a history on the topic you chose, from the sources available. In other words, your essay will be part historiographical (what was the process of uncovering and writing this history like?) and part historical (what new discoveries did you make that you can share, and what does this tell us about the past, and about change over time?). Again, don't use Google.

Questions to keep in mind include: What was the research process like? What unexpected roadblocks did you encounter or what new discoveries did you make? What new insights into the history of the topic can you convey to your reader? How did the types of sources affect what you could find out and write about? How does this give you a stronger understanding of how history gets written? Why should people care about the history you uncovered? Is this knowledge useful, or merely interesting?

Turn in your paper to me **via email** on **December 5th at 5pm**, as both a PDF attachment and pasted in the body of the email, just in case the attachment does not open. My email address is mhicks1@iit.edu and I will send you a reply confirming I've received your paper by 7pm that day. If you don't receive a confirmation of receipt, email it again or get in touch with me.

Happy exploring!